

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups, comprising:

a) preparing a catalyst mixture including

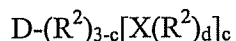
i) a precatalyst containing palladium and at least one ligand bonded to the palladium which is selected from the group consisting of acetyl acetonate and acetate;

ii) a first cocatalyst represented by Chemical Formula 2 or Chemical Formula 3 which has an unshared electron pair and serves as an electron donor; and

iii) a second cocatalyst represented by Chemical Formula 4 which is capable of providing an anion and weakly coordinating to the palladium of the precatalyst; and

b) subjecting a monomer solution comprising a norbornene-based compound containing a polar functional group as represented by Chemical Formula 5 to an addition polymerization reaction in the presence of an organic solvent and the catalyst mixture, at a temperature of 80-200 °C, the total amount of the organic solvent being 50-800 % by weight based on the total weight of the monomer contained in the monomer solution, and the product yield of the polymer being 50% by weight or more based on the total weight of the monomer:

Chemical Formula 2



wherein

D is phosphorous,

c is an integer of 0 to 3,

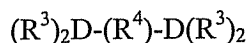
X is an oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen or silicon,

d is 1 when X is an oxygen or sulfur, 2 when X is a nitrogen atom, or 3 when X is a silicon,

R^2 is hydrogen; a linear or branched C_{1-20} alkyl, alkoxy, allyl, alkenyl or vinyl group; a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; a C_{6-40} aryl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; a C_{7-15} aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; a C_{3-20} alkynyl group; a tri(linear or

branched C₁₋₁₀ alkyl) silyl or tri(linear or branched C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy) silyl group; a tri(C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon) silyl group; a tri(C₆₋₄₀ aryl unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon) silyl group; a tri(C₆₋₄₀ aryloxy unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon) silyl group; a tri(linear or branched C₁₋₁₀ alkyl) siloxy group; a tri(C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon) siloxy group; or tri(C₆₋₄₀ aryl unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon) siloxy group, in which all these substituents may be substituted with a linear or branched haloalkyl group or a halogen;

Chemical Formula 3



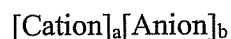
wherein

D is phosphorous,

R³ is as defined in R² of Chemical Formula 2,

R⁴ is a linear or branched C₁₋₅ alkyl, alkenyl or vinyl group; a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; a C₆₋₂₀ aryl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; or a C₇₋₁₅ aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon;

Chemical Formula 4

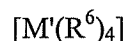


wherein

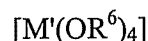
cation is selected from the group consisting of proton; cations of Group 1 and 2 metals; and organic groups containing these cations selected from the group consisting of ammoniums selected from the group consisting of [NH(R⁵)₃]⁺, [NH₂(R⁵)₂]⁺, [NH₃(R⁵)₁]⁺, and [N(R⁵)₄]⁺, phosphoniums selected from the group consisting of [PH(R⁵)₃]⁺, [PH₂(R⁵)₂]⁺, [PH₃(R⁵)₁]⁺, and [P(R⁵)₄]⁺, carboniums [C(R⁵)₃]⁺, [H(OEt₂)₂]⁺, [Ag]⁺, and [Cp₂Fe]⁺, in which R⁵ is a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group; an alkyl or silylalkyl group substituted with a halogen; a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; a cycloalkyl or silyl cycloalkyl group substituted with a halogen; a C₆₋₄₀ aryl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; an aryl or silyl aryl group substituted with a halogen; a C₇₋₁₅ aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; or an aralkyl or silyl aralkyl group substituted with a halogen, wherein anion is an anion capable of weakly coordinating to the palladium of

the precatalyst, and is a borate represented by Chemical Formula 4a or 4b;

Chemical Formula 4a



Chemical Formula 4b



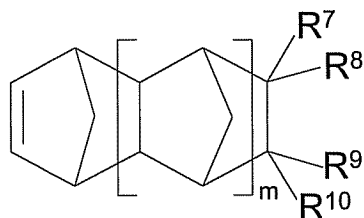
wherein

M' is a boron;

R⁶ is a halogen; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a halogen atom; a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a halogen; a C₆₋₄₀ aryl group which unsubstituted or substituted with a hydrocarbon; a C₆₋₄₀ aryl group substituted with a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ trialkylsiloxy group or a linear or branched C₁₈₋₄₈ triarylsiloxy group; or a C₇₋₁₅ aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with a halogen, and

a and b are the number of the cations and anions, respectively, and determined to allow the cation and anion to be electrically neutralized and balance the charges;

Chemical Formula 5



wherein

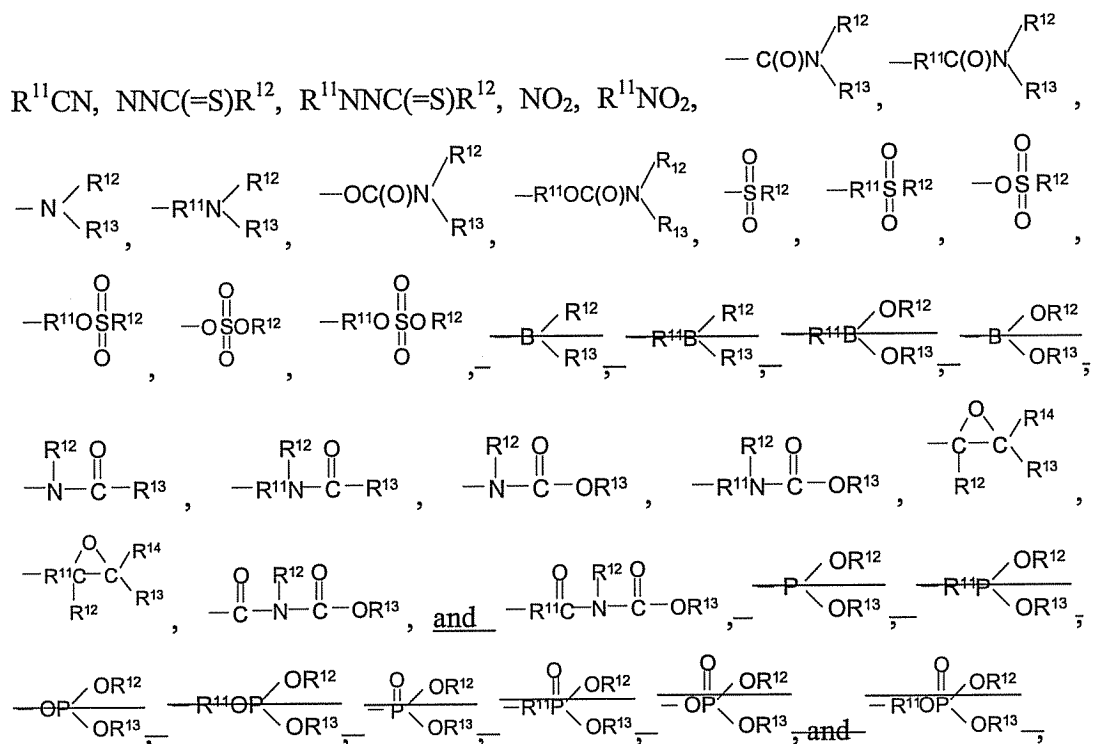
m is an integer of 0 to 4,

at least one of R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ is a polar functional group, the others are non-polar functional group, and R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ can be bonded together to form a saturated or unsaturated C₁₋₂₀ cyclic group or C₆₋₂₄ aromatic ring,

the non-polar functional group includes hydrogen; halogen; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ haloalkyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkenyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ haloalkenyl group; a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ alkynyl group; a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ haloalkynyl; a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; a C₆₋₄₀ aryl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; and a C₇₋₁₅ aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl,

the polar functional group is a ~~non-hydrocarbonaceous polar group~~ selected from the group consisting of: OR¹², OC(O)OR¹², R¹¹OC(O)OR¹², C(O)R¹², R¹¹C(O)R¹², OC(O)R¹², R¹¹OC(O)R¹², (R¹¹O)pOR¹², (OR¹¹)pOR¹², C(O)OC(O)R¹², R¹¹C(O)OC(O)R¹², SR¹², R¹¹SR¹², SSR¹², R¹¹SSR¹², S(=O)R¹², R¹¹S(=O)R¹², R¹¹C(=S)R¹², R¹¹C(=S)SR¹², R¹¹SO₃R¹², SO₃R¹², R¹¹N=C=S, NCO, R¹¹NCO, CN,



in which R¹¹ is a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ haloalkyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkenyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ haloalkenyl group; a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ alkynyl group; a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ haloalkynyl; a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; a C₆₋₄₀ aryl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; and a C₇₋₁₅ aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl,

R¹², R¹³, and R¹⁴ are each independently hydrogen; a halogen; a linear or

branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ haloalkyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkenyl group; a linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ haloalkenyl group; a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ alkynyl group; a linear or branched C₃₋₂₀ haloalkynyl; a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; a C₆₋₄₀ aryl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; a C₇₋₁₅ aralkyl group unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, or haloalkynyl; or alkoxy, haloalkoxy, carbonyloxy, halocarbonyloxy, and

p is an integer of 1 to 10.

2. to 5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of dichloromethane, dichloroethane, toluene, chlorobenzene and mixtures thereof.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the total amount of the organic solvent is 50-200 % by weight based on the total weight of the monomer contained in the monomer solution.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the polymerization reaction is performed at a temperature of 80-150 °C.

11. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst mixture includes a metal catalyst complex containing a cation complex made of the precatalyst and the first cocatalyst and an anion complex made of the second cocatalyst.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst mixture comprises, based on 1 mole of the precatalyst, 1-3 moles of the first cocatalyst; and 1-2 moles of the second cocatalyst.

13. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the catalyst mixture based on the precatalyst to the monomer contained in the monomer solution is in the range of 1:2,500 - 1:100,000.

14. and 15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the monomer solution further comprises a cycloolefin compound containing no polar functional group.

17. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 16, wherein the molar ratio of the cycloolefin compound containing no polar functional group is 30 % by mole based on the total monomers contained in the monomer solution.

18. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups includes a homopolymer of a cycloolefin monomer containing a polar functional group, a copolymer of cycloolefin monomers containing different polar functional groups, and a copolymer of cycloolefin monomers containing a polar functional group and cycloolefin monomers containing no polar functional group.

19. (Original) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein a molecular weight (Mw) of the cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups is in the range of 100,000-1,000,000.

20. (Currently amended) An optical anisotropic film comprising a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups which is prepared by a method as claimed in claim 1 and has a molecular weight of 100,000 or more,

wherein the optical anisotropic film has 70 to 1000 nm of a retardation value (R_{th}), as defined by the following equation 1 and the refractive index of the optical anisotropic film satisfies the following equation 3:

(Equation 1)

$$R_{th} = \Delta(n_y - n_z) \times d$$

(Equation 3)

$$n_x \cong n_y > n_z$$

wherein n_x is a refractive index in a slow axis direction in a plane, n_y is a refractive index in a fast axis direction in a plane, and n_z is a refractive index in a thickness direction, each measured at a wavelength of 550 nm; and

d is the film thickness.

21. and 22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) The optical anisotropic film according to ~~claim 22~~ claim 20, wherein the optical anisotropic film is used as a negative C-plate type optical compensation film for Liquid Crystal Displays.

24. (Original) A display device comprising an optical anisotropic film as claimed in claim 20.

25. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein i) the precatalyst is selected from the group consisting of an $\text{Pd}(\text{acetyl acetonate})_2$, $\text{Pd}(\text{acetate})_2$, and $(\text{acetate})\text{Pd}(\text{acetyl acetonate})$.

26. (Previously Presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein ii) the first cocatalyst is tricyclohexylphosphine.

27. (Previously Presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein iii) the second cocatalyst is dimethyl aniliniumtetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate.

28. (Previously Presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the norbornene-based compound contains a polar functional group selected from the group consisting of 5-norbornene-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 5-norbornene-2-carboxylic acid butyl ester, 5-norbornene-2-allylacetate, 5-norbornene-2-acetate.

29. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a cycloolefin polymer containing polar functional groups according to claim 1, wherein the norbornene-based compound containing the polar functional group comprises more than 50 mol% of the *exo*-isomer.

30. to 34. (Canceled)